Public Law 97-364
97th Congress

An Act

Oct. 25, 1982
[H.R. 6170]

To amend title 23, United States Code, to encourage the establishment by States of effective alcohol traffic safety programs and to require the Secretary of Transportation to administer a national driver register to assist State driver licensing officials in electronically exchanging information regarding the motor vehicle driving records of certain individuals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Alcohol traffic safety programs and national driver register.

TITLE I—ALCOHOL TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. (a) Chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Grants.
23 USC 408.

"§ 408. Alcohol traffic safety programs

"(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall make basic and supplemental grants to those States which adopt and implement effective programs to reduce traffic safety problems resulting from persons driving while under the influence of alcohol. Such grants may only be used by recipient States to implement and enforce such programs.

"(b) No grant may be made to a State under this section in any fiscal year unless such State enters into such agreements with the Secretary as the Secretary may require to ensure that such State will maintain its aggregate expenditures from all other sources for alcohol traffic safety programs at or above the average level of such expenditures in its two fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of this section.

Federal share payments.

"(c) No State may receive grants under this section in more than three fiscal years. The Federal share payable for any grant under this section shall not exceed—

"(1) in the first fiscal year the State receives a grant under this section, 75 per centum of the cost of implementing and enforcing in such fiscal year the alcohol traffic safety program adopted by the State pursuant to subsection (a);

"(2) in the second fiscal year the State receives a grant under this section, 50 per centum of the cost of implementing and enforcing in such fiscal year such program; and

"(3) in the third fiscal year the State receives a grant under this section, 25 per centum of the cost of implementing and enforcing in such fiscal year such program.

"(d)(1) Subject to subsection (c), the amount of a basic grant made under this section for any fiscal year to any State which is eligible for such a grant under subsection (e)(1) shall equal 30 per centum of the amount apportioned to such State for fiscal year 1983 under section 402 of this title.

23 USC 402

"(2) Subject to subsection (c), the amount of a supplemental grant made under this section for any fiscal year to any State which is eligible for such a grant under subsection (e)(2) shall not exceed 20

per centum of the amount apportioned to such State for fiscal year 1983 under section 402 of this title. Such supplemental grant shall be in addition to any basic grant received by such State. 23 USC 402.

"(e)(1) For purposes of this section, a State is eligible for a basic grant if such State provides— State eligibility.

"(A) for the prompt suspension, for a period not less than ninety days in the case of a first offender and not less than one year in the case of any repeat offender, of the driver's license of any individual who a law enforcement officer has probable cause under State law to believe has committed an alcohol-related traffic offense, and (i) to whom is administered one or more chemical tests to determine whether the individual was intoxicated while operating the motor vehicle and who is determined, as a result of such tests, to be intoxicated, or (ii) who refuses to submit to such a test as proposed by the officer;

"(B) for a mandatory sentence, which shall not be subject to suspension or probation, of (i) imprisonment for not less than forty-eight consecutive hours, or (ii) not less than ten days of community service, of any person convicted of driving while intoxicated more than once in any five-year period;

"(C) that any person with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 percent or greater when driving a motor vehicle shall be deemed to be driving while intoxicated; and

"(D) for increased efforts or resources dedicated to the enforcement of alcohol-related traffic laws and increased efforts to inform the public of such enforcement.

"(2) For purposes of this section, a State is eligible for a supplemental grant if such State is eligible for a basic grant and in addition provides for some or all of the criteria established by the Secretary under subsection (f).

"(f) The Secretary shall, by rule, establish criteria for effective programs to reduce traffic safety problems resulting from persons driving while under the influence of alcohol, which criteria shall be in addition to those required for a basic grant under subsection (e)(1). The Secretary shall establish such criteria in cooperation with the States and political subdivisions thereof, appropriate Federal departments and agencies, and such other public and nonprofit organizations as the Secretary may deem appropriate. Such criteria may include, but need not be limited to, requirements— Effective program critera.

"(1) for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide driver recordkeeping system from which repeat offenders may be identified and which is accessible in a prompt and timely manner to the courts and to the public;

"(2) for the creation and operation of rehabilitation and treatment programs for those arrested and convicted of driving while intoxicated;

"(3) for the impoundment of any vehicle operated on a State road by any individual whose driver's license is suspended or revoked for an alcohol-related driving offense;

"(4) for the establishment in each major political subdivision of a State of locally coordinated alcohol traffic safety programs which are administered by local officials and are financially self-sufficient;

"(5) for the grant of presentence screening authority to the courts;

"(6) for the setting of the minimum drinking age in such State at twenty-one years of age;

"(7) for the consideration of and, where consistent with other provisions of State law and constitution the adoption of, recommendations that the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving may issue during the period in which rules are being made to carry out this section.

Appropriation authorization.

"(g) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, out of the Highway Trust Fund, $25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, and $50,000,000 per fiscal year for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1984, and September 30, 1985. All provisions of chapter 1 of this title that are applicable to Federal-aid primary highway funds, other than provisions relating to the apportionment formula and provisions limiting the expenditures of such funds to Federal-aid systems, shall apply to the funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, except as determined by the Secretary to be inconsistent with this section. Sums authorized by this subsection shall not be subject to any obligation limitation for State and community highway safety programs.".

23 USC 101 *et seq.*

(b) The analysis for chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"408. Alcohol traffic safety programs.".

Regulations, publication in Federal Register.
23 USC 408 note.

(c) The Secretary of Transportation shall issue and publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations to implement section 408 of title 23, United States Code, not later than November 1, 1982. The Secretary shall allow public comment and hold public hearings on the proposed regulations to encourage maximum citizen participation. The final regulations shall be issued, published in the Federal Register, and transmitted to Congress before February 1, 1983. To the extent such regulations relate to the making of basic grants under such section 408, such regulations shall become effective on the date on which they are published in the Federal Register. To the extent such regulations relate to the making of supplemental grants under such section 408, such regulations shall become effective April 1, 1983, unless before such date either House of Congress by resolution disapproves such regulations to such extent. If such regulations are so disapproved by either House of Congress, the Secretary shall not obligate for such supplemental grants any amount authorized to carry out such section 408 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, or any subsequent fiscal year, unless specifically authorized to do so by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

Ante, p. 1738.
Disapproval by Congress.

TITLE II—NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER

National Driver Register Act of 1982.

SHORT TITLE

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 201. This title may be cited as the "National Driver Register Act of 1982".

DEFINITIONS

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 202. For purposes of this title, the term—

(1) "alcohol" has the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Transportation under regulations prescribed by the Secretary;

(2) "chief driver licensing official" means the official in each State who is authorized to (A) maintain any record regarding any motor vehicle operator's license issued by such State; and (B) grant, deny, revoke, suspend, or cancel any motor vehicle operator's license issued by such State;

(3) "controlled substance" has the meaning given such term in section 102(6) of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 802(6));

(4) "highway" means any road or street;

(5) "motor vehicle" means any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used on a highway, except that such term does not include any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer operated exclusively on a rail or rails;

(6) "motor vehicle operator's license" means any license issued by a State which authorizes an individual to operate a motor vehicle on a highway;

(7) "participating State" means any State which has notified the Secretary of its participation in the Register system, pursuant to section 204 of this title;

(8) "Register" and "Register system" mean the National Driver Register established under section 203 of this title;

(9) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation;

(10) "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

(11) "State of record" means any State which has transmitted to the Secretary, pursuant to section 205 of this title, any report regarding any individual who is the subject of a request for information made under section 206 of this title.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTER

SEC. 203. (a) The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this title, establish and thereafter maintain a Register, to be known as the National Driver Register, to assist chief driver licensing officials of participating States in exchanging information regarding the motor vehicle driving records of individuals. The Register shall contain an index of the information that is reported to the Secretary under section 205 of this title, and shall be designed to enable the Secretary, either electronically or, until such time as all States are capable of participating electronically, through the United States mails, to—

23 USC 401 note.

Information index.

(1) receive information submitted under section 205(a) of this title by the chief driver licensing official of any State of record;

(2) receive any request for information made by the chief driver licensing official of any participating State under section 206 of this title;

(3) refer such request to the chief driver licensing official of any State of record; and

(4) relay without interception of the actual information to the chief driver licensing official of a participating State any information provided by any chief driver licensing official of a State of record in response to such request.

(b) The Secretary shall not be responsible for the accuracy of any information relayed to the chief driver licensing official of any participating State, except that the Secretary shall maintain the Register in a manner that ensures against any inadvertent alteration of information during any relay.

Final rule.

(c)(1) The Secretary shall, within eighteen months after the date of enactment of this title, promulgate a final rule which provides for procedures for the orderly transition from the system regarding the motor vehicle driving records of individuals provided in Public Law 86-660 (74 Stat. 526) to the Register established under subsection (a) of this section.

23 USC 313 note.

(2) The Secretary shall not maintain in the Register any report or information which was compiled under the provisions of Public Law 86-660 (74 Stat. 526) and was transferred to the Register after (A) the date the State of record removes it from the State's file; (B) seven years after the date such report or information is entered into the Register; or (C) the date of establishment of a fully electronic Register system, whichever is earlier. Such report or information shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of chapter 33 of title 44, United States Code.

44 USC 3301 *et seq.*

Erroneous information.

(3) If the chief driver licensing official of any participating State finds that information which has been transmitted for inclusion in the Register under this section is erroneous or relates to a conviction of a traffic offense which is subsequently reversed, such official shall immediately notify the Secretary of the error. The Secretary shall provide for the immediate deletion from the Register of such material.

(d) The Secretary shall assign to the administration of this title such personnel as may be necessary to ensure the effective functioning of the Register system.

(e) The Secretary may prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

STATE PARTICIPATION

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 204. (a) Any State may become a participating State under this title by notifying the Secretary of its intention to be bound by the provisions of section 205 of this title.

Status termination.

(b) Any participating State may terminate its status as a participating State under this title by notifying the Secretary of its withdrawal from participation in the Register system.

(c) Any notification made by a State under subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be made in such form, and according to such procedures, as the Secretary shall establish by regulation.

REPORTS BY CHIEF DRIVER LICENSING OFFICIALS

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 205. (a) The chief driver licensing official in each participating State shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this title, transmit to the Secretary a report containing the information required in subsection (b) of this section regarding any individual—

(1) who is denied a motor vehicle operator's license by such State for cause;

(2) whose motor vehicle operator's license is canceled, revoked, or suspended by such State, for cause; or

(3) who is convicted under the laws of such State of the following motor vehicle-related offenses or comparable offenses—

(A) operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol or a controlled substance;

(B) a traffic violation arising in connection with a fatal traffic accident, reckless driving, or racing on the highways;

(C) failure to render aid or provide identification when involved in an accident which results in a fatality or personal injury; or

(D) perjury or the knowledgeable making of a false affidavit or statement to officials in connection with activities governed by a law or regulation relating to the operation of a motor vehicle.

Required information.

(b) Any report regarding an individual which is transmitted by a chief driver licensing official pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall contain—

(1) the legal name, date of birth (including day, month, and year), sex, and (at the Secretary's discretion) the height, weight, eye and hair color of such individual;

(2) the name of the State transmitting such information; and

(3) the social security account number, if used by the reporting State for driver record or motor vehicle license purposes, and the motor vehicle operator's license number of such individual (if that number is different from the operator's social security account number);

except that any report concerning an occurrence specified in subsection (a) (1), (2), or (3) of this section which occurs during the two-year period preceding the date on which such State becomes a participating State shall be sufficient if it contains all such information as is available to the chief driver licensing official on such date.

(c) Any report required to be transmitted by a chief driver licensing official of a State under subsection (a) of this section shall be transmitted to the Secretary—

(1) not later than thirty-one days after receipt by a State motor vehicle department of any information specified in subsection (b) (1), (2), or (3) of this section which is the subject of such report, if the date of such occurrence is after the date on which such State becomes a participating State; or

(2) not later than the expiration of the six-month period following the date on which such State becomes a participating State, if such report concerns an occurrence specified in subsection (a) (1), (2), or (3) of this section that occurs during the two-year period preceding such date.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any State to report any information concerning any occurrence which occurs before the two-year period preceding the date on which the State becomes a participating State.

ACCESSIBILITY OF REGISTER INFORMATION

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 206. (a)(1) For purposes of fulfilling his duties with respect to driver licensing, driver improvement, or highway safety, the chief driver licensing official of any participating State may, on and after the date of enactment of this title, request the Secretary to refer electronically or through the United States mails any request for

information regarding the motor vehicle driving record of any individual to the chief driver licensing official of any State of record.

(2) The Secretary shall electronically or through the United States mails relay to any chief driver licensing official of a participating State who requests information under paragraph (1) of this subsection any information received from the chief driver licensing official of any State of record regarding an individual in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, except that the Secretary may refuse to relay any information to any such official who is the chief driver licensing official of a participating State which is not in compliance with the provisions of section 205 of this title.

(b)(1) The Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board and the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, for purposes of requesting information regarding any individual who is the subject of any accident investigation conducted by the Board or Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety, may request the chief driver licensing official of a State to obtain information under subsection (a) of this section regarding such individual. The Chairman and Administrator may receive any such information.

Requests by individuals or employers.

(2) Any individual who is employed as a driver of a motor vehicle or who seeks employment as a driver of a motor vehicle may request the chief driver licensing official of the State in which the individual is employed or seeks employment to transmit information under subsection (a) of this section to his employer or prospective employer. An employer or prospective employer may receive such information regarding any such individual, and shall make that information available to the affected individual. There shall be no access to information in the Register under this paragraph if such information was entered in the Register more than three years before the date of such request.

(3) Any individual, in order (A) to determine whether the Register is providing any data regarding him or the accuracy of any such data; or (B) to obtain a certified copy of data provided through the Register regarding him, may request the chief driver licensing official of a State to obtain information regarding him under subsection (a) of this section.

(4) Any request made under this subsection shall be made in such form, and according to such procedures, as the Secretary shall establish by regulation.

(c) Any request for, or receipt of, information by means of the Register shall be subject to the provisions of sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code, and any other applicable Federal and State law, except that—

(1) the Secretary shall not relay, or otherwise transmit, information specified in section 205(b) (1) or (3) of this title to any person not authorized by this section to receive such information;

(2) any request for, or receipt of, information by any chief driver licensing official, or by any person authorized by subsection (b) of this section to request and receive information, shall be considered to be a routine use for purposes of section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) any receipt of information by any person authorized by this section to receive information shall be considered to be a disclosure for purposes of section 552a(c) of title 5, United States Code, except that the Secretary shall not be required to retain

the accounting made under paragraph (1) of such section for more than a seven-year period after the date of such disclosure.

PILOT TEST PROGRAM

SEC. 207. (a) The Secretary shall design, within eighteen months after the date of enactment of this title, and implement, within two years after the date of enactment of this title, a pilot test program for the purpose of demonstrating the potential effectiveness of a system for electronic referral and relay of information regarding the motor vehicle driving records of individuals. 23 USC 401 note.

(b) The Secretary shall solicit the participation of States which are interested in participating in such program and shall, within thirty months after the date of enactment of this title, select four States to participate in the program.

(c)(1) The Secretary shall select States in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section from among States which have in effect, on the date of selection, an intrastate online driver licensing system capable of electronically transmitting information regarding the motor vehicle driving records of individuals.

(2) The Secretary shall select only those States which indicate a willingness to participate in a comprehensive mechanical and programmatic evaluation of systems for the electronic transfer of information.

(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the selection made pursuant to subsection (b) of this section is representative of varying geographical and population characteristics of the Nation.

(4) No State shall participate in the program unless it agrees to assist in providing information to other States regarding the electronic transfer of the motor vehicle driving records of individuals.

(d) Within two years after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall begin the pilot program authorized by subsection (a) of this section. Such program shall continue for a period of one year. In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall utilize different computer technologies and equipment in order to determine which technology and equipment is most effective for the electronic transfer of the motor vehicle driving records of individuals. The Secretary shall determine which systems and devices will best interconnect with systems and devices used in the States which are participating in the pilot program, as well as those used in other States. Computer technologies and equipment.

(e) Any equipment or device which is provided to a State for use in the pilot program conducted under this section may, in the discretion of the Secretary, remain with the State following the conclusion of the pilot program.

(f) Not later than one year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the program. Such report shall include an evaluation of the technology utilized during the program, together with an explanation of the nature and degree of State participation in the program. The report shall also contain an evaluation of achievements of the pilot program, as well as a projection of accomplishments which might result from the acquisition of electronic transfer equipment and methods by States other than those which participated in the pilot program. Report to Congress.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 208. (a) Any person, other than an individual described in section 206(b)(4) of this title, who receives under section 206 of this title information specified in section 205(b) (1) or (3) of this title (the disclosure of which is not authorized by section 206 of this title), and who, knowing that disclosure of such information is not authorized, willfully discloses such information, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully requests or under false pretenses obtains information specified in section 205(b) (1) or (3) of this title from any person who receives such information under section 206 of this title shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

23 USC 401 note.

SEC. 209. (a) There hereby is established a National Driver Register Advisory Committee, which shall advise the Secretary concerning the efficiency of the maintenance and operation of the Register, and the effectiveness of the Register in assisting States in exchanging information regarding motor vehicle driving records.

Membership.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall consist of fifteen members, appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

(1) three members from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience, and who are not employees of the Federal Government or of any State; and

(2) three members from among groups outside the Government which represent the interests of bus and trucking organizations, enforcement officials, labor, or safety organizations; and

(3) nine members, geographically representative of the participating States, from among individuals who are chief driver licensing officials of participating States.

Office terms.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3), each member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of three years.

(2) Of the members first appointed—

(A) one of the members described in subsection (b)(1) and one of the members described in subsection (b)(2) and three of the members described in subsection (b)(3) shall be appointed for a term of one year;

(B) one of the members described in subsection (b)(1) and one of the members described in subsection (b)(2) and three of the members described in subsection (b)(3) shall be appointed for a term of two years; and

(C) one of the members described in subsection (b)(1) and one of the members described in subsection (b)(2) and three of the members described in subsection (b)(3) shall be appointed for a term of three years;

as designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment.

Vacancies

(3) Any vacancy in the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. Any member appointed to fill any vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor was appointed. Any member may serve after the expiration of his term until his successor has taken office.

(d) The members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, but the Secretary is authorized to reimburse such members for all reasonable travel expenses incurred by them in attending the meetings of the Advisory Committee. Compensation.

(e)(1) The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than once each year.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among the members of the Advisory Committee.

(3) Eight members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum. Quorum.

(4) The Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman or a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee.

(f) The Advisory Committee may receive from the Secretary such personnel, penalty mail privileges, and similar services, as the Secretary considers necessary to assist it in performing its duties and functions under this section.

(g) Not less than once each year, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report concerning the efficiency of the maintenance and operation of the Register, and the effectiveness of the Register in assisting States in exchanging information regarding motor vehicle driving records. Such report shall include any recommendations of the Advisory Committee for changes in the Register system. Report.

(h) The Advisory Committee shall be exempt from the requirements of section 10(e), section 10(f), and section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix).

REPORT BY SECRETARY

SEC. 210. Not later than the expiration of the four-year period following the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Congress a comprehensive report setting forth the extent and level of participation in the Register system, and the effectiveness of such system in the identification of unsafe drivers. Such report shall include any recommendations of the Secretary concerning the desirability of extending the authorization of appropriations for this title beyond the period of authorization provided in section 211 of this title. Submittal to Congress. 23 USC 401 note.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 211. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1982, for expenses incurred in the establishment of the Register system under this title not to exceed $2,000,000. 23 USC 401 note.

(b) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this title and the provisions of Public Law 86-660 (74

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23 USC 313 note.

Stat. 526) not to exceed $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1983, not to exceed $1,300,000 for fiscal year 1984, not to exceed $1,600,000 for fiscal year 1985, not to exceed $1,600,000 for fiscal year 1986, and not to exceed $1,600,000 for fiscal year 1987.

(c) Funds authorized under this section shall remain available until expended.

Approved October 25, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6170 (S. 2158):

HOUSE REPORT No. 97-867 (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation).
SENATE REPORT No. 97-360 accompanying S. 2158 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
May 11, S. 2158 considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 29, considered and passed House.
Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 18, No. 43 (1982):
Oct. 25, Presidential statement.